(c) whether Government feel that mobile telephones are necessary in metropolitan cities and whether the earlier decision to have such cellular mobile phones for rural areas has been shelved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Mobile Telephone System is useful for large urban areas as well as rural areas. Mobile Telephone System proposed for Bombay will cover surrounding areas also. The proposal for the use of mobile telephone technology as one of the alternatives for providing rural communication is still under the consideration of the Government.

Production of iodised salt

554. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of iodised salt has decreased during the last three years;

(b) whether the small-salt-pan manufacturers have discontinued their work due to recent order to iodinise the salt; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to provide adequate remunerative prices to small-salt-pan manufacturers to increase salt production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) *No, Sir.*

(c) Does not arise.

Aromatic complex Project of Madras Refineries Ltd.

555. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item in "The Week" magazine dated 3rd-9th July, 1988 regarding withholding of licences for Madras Refineries Ltd. in connection with its project for aromatic complex; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) M/s. Madras Refineries Limited (MRL) has been granted a Letter of Intent on 6-2-87 to set up an aromatic complex at Manali, district Chingleput in the State of Tamil Nadu. M/s. MRL are taking steps to obtain necessary clearances such as investment approval, foreign collaboration and import of capital goods etc. Such clearances are given on techno-economic considerations.

Licenced capacity for petrochemicals

556. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the licenced capacity granted to manufacture DMT, PTA, LAB; HDPE and Polyester Fibre and Yarn to various public sector and private sector companies, companywise as on 31st December, 1987; and

(b) whether Government would review the policy of granting capacity to manufacture these products to private sectors and reserve the capacity for public sector only?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) A statement is attached. (*See* below).

(b) Industrial Licences are issued as per the policy laid down under the Industrial (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951 which is reviewed by the Government from time to time.